

up a large bulk of the school lunch program menu, but because there is no increase in the food assistance, they would have to take that from the breakfast program or one of these other. No matter how you move around the plates, of course, what you see is that the Republican proposal for child nutrition in our school lunch programs simply does not cover the needs of the children currently enrolled.

And we are now estimating that almost 2 million children that otherwise would be served will not be served because one of them, it is just sort of like musical chairs. One of them is going to show up for one of these programs. There is not going to be funding for that program. They are going to go unserved. That estimate is now 2 million children in the next 5 years.

Mr. DURBIN. If the gentleman will yield, what do you make of the Republican claim? They keep saying, "Wait a minute, we are giving a 4½-percent increase every year for school lunch; how can you complain? Four-and-a-half percent ought to be plenty."

Mr. MILLER of California. That is really similar if I were to cut your wages by \$20,000 and then say I am going to give you a 4½-percent increase over the next 5 years. You start out in the hole, and you never get well, and because they do not provide a 4½-percent increase on inflation, on the price of commodities, the price of food, the increase in enrollment, the 4½ percent turns out to be fraudulent. Under the Republican program, you can do this. You have no lunches, no food assistance, no afterschool program, and no breakfast. What a shame, shameful thing for America's children who were expecting a block grant to take care of their needs.

The plates will be available after the show.

#### SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, tonight we are going to talk a little bit more about the school nutrition programs, because this seems to be the Democrats' favorite topic of the topics de jour.

Somewhat, somewhere along the line the Democrats have decided or believe that somehow they can make, by telling the same lie over and over and over, that they can somehow get a wedge with the American people. And the fact is that in some ways the opposition does understand politics perhaps better than the Republicans do. They understand that politics is about power, and when it is about power, you stop at nothing to try to regain it.

Republicans are still under the impression that politics is about ideas and ideals. But this is about the politics of deceit and the politics of the big lie.

I yield to my friend, the gentlewoman from Washington [Mrs. SMITH]. Mrs. SMITH of Washington. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

You know, I have been standing here for 2 days listening, in fact, nearly 2 weeks, to untruths.

My mom used to say, you know, it would be awful nice if people would just turn purple when they started stretching the truth, shifting words around and using wiggle words. There would be an awful lot of purple people here tonight if that were the case.

I think what we need to do is just make sure the American people understand that a 4½-percent-a-year increase is not a cut. Now, if you are used to being in Congress where you guys all have been spending more than we out there have been earning, you think a 4½-percent increase is a cut. The American people, I do not think, will agree with that.

So let us take a look at the actual members of how much the food programs are going to go up.

Mr. HOKE. Only a liberal could call a \$200 million increase a cut. Only people that think the way the people think inside of Washington could call that a cut.

I would like to draw attention just for a moment to the CRS study that was published just today. We got a copy of it just today [CRS] Congressional Research Service, completely independent, nonpartisan.

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Not a Republican group.

Mr. HOKE. Not a Republican group, not a Democrat group. It is a completely nonpartisan group.

Here is what they say about what is going to happen in Ohio, a State close to my heart. What we are going to find in Ohio with respect to the school-based block grants, school-based nutrition programs, is that in 1995, fiscal 1995, under current law, \$190 million is being spent. Under the school-based block grant program, our Republican program, that will go up to \$202 million, an increase of \$11 million.

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. That is in one State.

Mr. HOKE. That is in one State, just the State of Ohio, an \$11 million increase. Now, for those who like baseline budgeting, which is to say we will take into account demographics, that is, changing populations, plus an inflation number, not the way that America thinks. I mean, this is the way that you get the phony numbers. But the fact is even using those numbers, the 1996 fiscal year current baseline would be \$199 million, a \$2 million increase over that.

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. That is a real increase in food.

Mr. HOKE. A real increase. This is food, and not only that, is there not a difference in the way that these programs get administered?

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. You know, what is amazing about it is the closer you get it to home, from what I can see, the less waste there is. We do

not seem to hear much about that. The closer the States have control, the less we are going to take the money here. I think the thing that surprised me the most when I flew into D.C., and I am from the west coast, did not even have a very long campaign, all of a sudden I was here as a write-in candidate. I fly in, and I see all of these buildings. I get here and find out they are all filled with bureaucrats. Those bureaucrats are deciding one layer of how money is spent, then the States decide, and then the locals, to where by the time the money gets down to food, it has a lot of red tape and rules around it.

What I like about the school lunch program is we unwrap it from a lot of that red tape and make sure the food gets to kids.

Mr. HOKE. And kids who really need it, the kids who need it most. We give them the opportunity; we make it possible for that money to get to those that need it the most. How? By making sure it goes to parents, administrators, and teachers and people right there in the neighborhoods locally making those decisions as opposed to Washington bureaucrats making those decisions.

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. You know, those other bureaucrats are going to whine, and that is the State superintendents of public instruction. They are going to whine, too, because we tell them you cannot spend any more than 2 percent on administration.

#### FACTS CONCERNING CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the people who are following these proceedings are really at a loss to figure out which side of this aisle is telling the truth. I am not sure my 5 minutes here will convince anyone one way or the other.

I would like to lay out a few of the facts which my friends on the Republican side just do not want to point to. The fact is if you took the time to go speak to a local school principal in your hometown or perhaps one of the people who runs the local school lunch program, they would tell you, as we have all heard on the Democratic side of the aisle, that the Republican idea is a very, very bad idea.

You would think, if the Republican position was so good and was going to give this authority to the local school districts and to the States, these people would be jumping up and down, and they are not. And do you know why? Because fundamentally what the Republicans are offering them is not enough money to do the job.

The Republican plan, yes, does provide additional funds in years to come. Let us concede that point. They just do not provide enough money, because we